

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed July 5, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-30 were last presented in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, all pending claims have been rejected. By the foregoing Amendments, claim 11 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-30 will remain pending in this application. Of these thirty (30) claims, three (3) claims (claims 1, 11 and 20) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under Section 112, Second Paragraph

3. Independent claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim. The Examiner is thanked for pointing out the specific objectionable language. The claim has been amended to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to more distinctly define the subject matter of the present invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under Section 103(a)

4. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cyberdata Corporation's Press Release entitled "4 Port Powered USB PCI Host Controller Provides Connectivity Of Retail Peripherals To Standard PC's" and dated September 4, 2003, (hereinafter, "Cyberdata") in view of Cyberdata Corporation's Operations Manual entitled "PCI USB PlusPower Four Port Host Controller Operations Manual" and dated March 23, 2004 (hereinafter, "Operations Manual"), U.S. Patent No. 5,911,051 to Carson *et al.* (hereinafter, "Carson") and U.S. Patent No. 6,760,799 to Dunlap *et al.* (hereinafter "Dunlap"). This rejection is respectively traversed since Cyberdata and Operations Manual are not available as references.

5. Cyberdata only qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), and accordingly may be overcome by showing an earlier date of invention. (See MPEP § 706.02(b)). Applicant encloses a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 signed by the sole inventor of this application, which indicates the inventor completed the claimed invention at a date prior to the date of Cyberdata, namely September 4, 2003. Further, the Operations Manual is dated April 23, 2004, a date which is one day *after* Applicant's filing date. Therefore, Cyberdata and Operations Manual cannot qualify under any provision of Section 102 and, thus, cannot be used in a rejection based on Section 103. (See MPEP § 2141.01).

6. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must cite references, which alone or in combination, teach every element of the claimed invention. (See MPEP § 706.02(j)). The only available references cited by the Examiner to reject claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are Carson and Dunlap. Carson is only cited for teaching an Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) card for graphics application. (See Office Action, page 4). Dunlap is only cited for teaching "that AGP can also be used for high-volume network traffic (e.g. USB), as well." (See Office Action, page 4). Carson and Dunlap, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach every claim element of independent claim 1 including at least the claimed features of: at least one USB port each adapted to mate with a USB-compatible peripheral device; power connector matable with a corresponding power connector of the computer system, through which a power signal is received and routed to the at least one USB port; and a voltage doubling circuit configured to double the power signal. Therefore, notwithstanding the lack of a motivation to combine Carson and Dunlap, the Examiner failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and thus the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are improper and should be withdrawn.

7. Independent claim 11 and dependent claims 12-15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cyberdata in view of Carson, Dunlap and U.S. Publication No. 2004/0033734 to Lelong (hereinafter "Lelong"). These rejections are respectively traversed since Cyberdata is not available as a reference.

8. As stated in paragraph 5, Applicant encloses a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 signed by the inventor, which indicates the inventor completed the invention of the claimed at a date prior to the date of Cyberdata, namely September 4, 2003. Therefore, Cyberdata cannot qualify under any provision of Section 102 and thus cannot be used in a rejection based on Section 103. (See MPEP § 2141.01).

9. Further, Lelong is disqualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). (See MPEP § 706.02(I)(2)). Application No. 10/829,187 (present application) and Application No. 10/464,447 (Lelong) were at the time of the invention of the present application, commonly owned by Hewlett-Packard Development Company LP.

10. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must cite references, which alone or in combination, teach every element of the claimed invention. (See MPEP § 706.02(j)). The only available references cited by the Examiner to reject claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are Carson and Dunlap. Carson is only cited for teaching an Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) card for graphics application. (See Office Action, page 11). Dunlap is only cited for teaching “that AGP can also be used for high-volume network traffic (e.g. USB), as well.” (See Office Action, page 11). Carson and Dunlap, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach every claim element of independent claim 11 including at least the claimed features of: a plurality of connectors through which USB data, USB power and power signals are received, wherein each connector is matable with a corresponding connector of a computer system; a plurality of Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports adapted to mate with a USB-compatible device; a first circuitry for routing the USB data, USB power and power signals from the plurality of connectors to the USB ports; and a second circuitry for doubling the voltage of the power signal. Therefore, notwithstanding the lack of a motivation to combine Carson, Dunlap and Lelong, the Examiner failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and thus the rejection of claims 11-15 and 17 is improper and should be withdrawn.

11. Independent claim 20 and dependent claims 21 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cyberdata in view of Carson and Dunlap. This rejection is respectively traversed since Cyberdata and Operations Manual are not available as references.

12. As stated in paragraph 5, Applicant encloses a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 signed by the inventor, which indicates the inventor completed the invention of the claimed at a date prior to the date of Cyberdata, namely September 4, 2003. Therefore, Cyberdata cannot qualify under any provision of Section 102 and thus cannot be used in a rejection based on Section 103. (See MPEP § 2141.01).

13. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must cite references, which alone or in combination, teach every element of the claimed invention. (See MPEP § 706.02(j)). The only available references cited by the Examiner to reject claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

and 8 are Carson and Dunlap. Carson is only cited for teaching an Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) card for graphics application. (*See* Office Action, page 17). Dunlap is only cited for teaching "that AGP can also be used for high-volume network traffic (e.g. USB), as well." (*See* Office Action, page 17). Carson and Dunlap, either alone or in combination, fails to teach every claim element of independent claim 1 including at least the claimed features of: at least one USB port each adapted to mate with a USB-compatible peripheral device; power connector matable with a corresponding power connector of the computer system, through which a power signal is received and routed to the at least one USB port; and a voltage doubling circuit configured to double the power signal. Therefore, notwithstanding the lack of a motivation to combine Carson and Dunlap, the Examiner failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and thus the rejection of claims 20, 21 and 27-30 is improper and should be withdrawn.

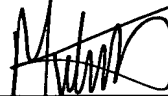
Dependent Claims

14. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

15. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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